

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE of the  
COLLIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 25, 2024, 2:00 p.m.**

**1. Call to Order**

**Ms. Middelstaedt** called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

**Ms. Miceli** called the roll and confirmed a quorum was present.

**CAC Members Present**

Elaine Middelstaedt, *Chair*

Neal Gelfand, *Vice-Chair*

Dennis DiDonna

Dennis Stalzer

Josh Rincon

Karen Homiak

Michelle Arnold

Fred Sasser

**CAC Members Absent**

Josephine Medina

**MPO Staff**

Anne McLaughlin, Executive Director

Sean Kingston, Principal Planner

Suzanne Miceli, Administrative Support Specialist II

**Others Present**

Victoria Peters, FDOT Community Liaison (*left after item 6.A.*)

Alex Showalter, Collier Area Transit

Felicia Kirby, Jacobs Engineering

Sonal Dodia, Jacobs Engineering

Patrick Post, Public at large

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

*Mr. Gelfand moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Rincon seconded. Carried unanimously.*

4. **Approval of the January 22, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

*Mr. Rincon moved to approve the January 22, 2024 meeting minutes. Ms. Arnold seconded. Carried unanimously.*

5. **Public Comments for Items not on the Agenda**

**Mr. Post** said he was with a group called the Sustainable Planet Organization. He wanted to share his proposal to Governor DeSantis to build a solar powered light-rail and bike/pedestrian pathway with electric bike/car share transit stations from Tampa to Marco Island. The Governor sent the proposal to the Department of Transportation who advised Mr. Post to get local leaders involved. The focus is to promote community and tourist transportation, economic development, and improve the health, fitness, and well-being of all our citizens. The long-term goal is to build an innovative 35-mile two-track transportation artery with 35 stations and park & ride lots from downtown Naples to Southwest Florida International Airport. He said he believed the project would reduce traffic congestion. The final phase will head south from Bonita Beach Rd., along the old tracks to Wiggins Pass Rd. Then the solar powered light-rail and bike/pedestrian pathway with electric bike/car share transit stations can continue to Immokalee Rd. near Naples Community Hospital, Veterans Park, and Arthrex. It will go south along Airport-Pulling Rd., crossing Vanderbilt Rd. near Mercato Shops and luxury hotels. It will cross Pine Ridge Rd. and Golden Gate Pkwy. to Naples High School, Coastland Mall, Naples Zoo, and the Conservancy of Southwest Florida. It will end at Naples Railroad Museum, Cambier Park, or Naples Pier. New routes can be added in the future such as Naples to Marco Island.

**Ms. Middelstaedt** thanked Mr. Post and said she thought it was a very interesting concept.

6. **Agency Updates**

**A. FDOT**

**Ms. Peters** said that FDOT was working with MPOs on Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) deadlines. She said that 2024 Legislative earmarks approved by the Governor will come out of the transportation trust fund and FDOT will adjust funding for projects in the Draft FY 25-29 Work Program accordingly. FDOT is working with Collier County on addressing safety concerns at the intersection of Oil Well Rd and S.R. 29 by installing flashing “stop ahead” lights, rumble strips and other signage. Commissioner McDaniel requested nighttime lighting at the intersection and FDOT recommended including that in the MPO’s annual List of Project Priorities this year.

**B. MPO Executive Director**

None.

**7. Committee Action**

**A. Endorse addition of Golden Gate Pkwy/Livingston Rd Intersection Design to the Joint Lee/Collier Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) Project Priority List for 2024**

**Ms. McLaughlin** said that the purpose of the proposal was to provide an improved intersection at Golden Gate Parkway and Livingston Road by designing an intersection that optimizes traffic flow, reduces delays, and improves the roadway network. The County was submitting an application to FDOT to meet the March 29, 2024, deadline FDOT established for new TRIP and County Incentive Grant Program (CIGP) priorities for FY 2030. The project is consistent with the MPO's 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) – Cost Feasible Plan. The addition of the project is being considered by Lee County MPO's advisory committees which would be shared and brought to TAC for endorsement at a future date. She said this was a request for the Committee to endorse the addition of the Golden Gate Pkwy/Livingston Rd intersection design as part of the 2024 TRIP Priority list.

**Ms. Lantz** said the County was working on a scope for the corridor study for an improved intersection. The study results would include a recommendation for an improved intersection and the County was asking for funding for design.

*Ms. Homiak moved to endorse addition of Golden Gate Pkwy/Livingston Rd Intersection Design to the Joint Lee/Collier Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) Project Priority List for 2024, and Mr. Gelfand seconded. Carried unanimously.*

**B. Review Draft FY 25/26 Unified Planning Work Program**

**Ms. McLaughlin** said the item was being presented for the Committee to review the Draft FY 2024/25 – 2025/26 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The UPWP sets forth the MPO's budget for activities and studies expected to be undertaken for a two-year period, beginning July 1, 2024, and ending on June 30, 2026. FDOT required a draft UPWP submittal for review and comment by March 15, 2024, and a final version by May 15, 2024. Staff was requesting that the Committee review the draft UPWP. The final UPWP would be presented for Committee endorsement in April.

*Ms. McLaughlin provided a presentation prepared by Collier MPO Senior Planner, Dusty Hansen, which can be viewed in the [March 25, 2024 CAC Agenda](#), and announced that Ms. Hansen invited Committee members to submit any questions or comments to her by April 8, 2024.*

*This item was presented for review only.*

**8. Reports and Presentation (May Require Committee Action)**

**A. Draft Report on the Collier Area Transit Regional Service and Regional Fare Study**

*Ms. Kirby and Ms. Dodal provided a presentation on the Collier Area Transit Regional Service and Regional Fare Study. The information presented in the study can be viewed in the [March 25, 2024 CAC Agenda](#).*

*A group discussion followed, regarding the benefits of creating different surveys in order to reach various community demographics and obtain a more fully formed public opinion about the transit system.*

**9. Member Comments**

**Ms. Middelstaedt** mentioned how please the citizens in Everglades City were with the recently constructed sidewalks and thanked FDOT and Ms. Peters for her work.

**10. Distribution Items**

None.

**11. Next Meeting Date**

*April 22, 2024, 2:00 p.m. –Transportation Management Services Bldg. Main Conference Room, 2885 S. Horseshoe Dr., Naples, FL, 34104 – in person.*

**12. Adjournment**

**Ms. Middelstaedt** adjourned the meeting at 3:12p.m.